

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 5, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 7, 11, 14 and 18 are hereby amended. Claims 1-6 are hereby canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. New claims 21 and 22 are hereby added. Accordingly, claims 7-22 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 11 and 18 have been amended herein to clarify that which Applicants regards as the claimed invention. In particular, the claims have been amended to recite, “a channel shaped section.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claims 11 and 18.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the admitted state of the art (hereinafter “the ASA”). Claim 1 has been canceled herein, rendering rejection of this claim moot. As to the remaining claim, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 7, as amended, recites, a combination of features of a drum type washing machine comprising

- a front cover on a front of the washing machine;
- side covers each for protecting a side of the washing machine;
- a back cover for protecting a rear of the washing machine;
- a top cover for protecting a top side of the washing machine;

a control panel for operating the washing machine and displaying a state of washing;
a panel frame provided at a rear of the control panel and supporting the control panel;
and

at least one top cover supporting member mounted on the panel frame and supporting the top cover with being in contact with a bottom of the top cover.

The ASA does not disclose or suggest at least these features. According to the claimed invention, the control panel is configured to operate the washing machine and display a status of washing, and the panel frame is provided at a rear of the control panel and supports the control panel. Further, at least one top cover supporting member is mounted on the panel frame and supports the top cover with being in contact with a bottom of the top cover. In contrast, the ASA merely discloses holes 21 formed at a panel frame and receiving ribs 32 of a top cover. Therefore, the ASA fails to teach or suggest at least, “the top cover supporting member mounted on the panel frame,” as recited in claim 7.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of independent claim 7.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-6, 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ASA in view of GB 2243770 Faini (hereinafter “Faini”). Claims 2-6 have been canceled herein, rendering rejection of these moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 8-13

Claims 8-13 depend from and add further features to independent claim 7. As discussed above, independent claim 7, as amended recites, *inter alia*, “a control panel for operating the washing machine and displaying a state of washing; a panel frame provided at a rear of the control panel and supporting the control panel; and at least one top cover supporting member mounted on the panel frame and supporting the top cover with being in contact with a bottom of the top cover.” The ASA fails to disclose or suggest such features.

Further, Faini does not cure the deficiencies of the ASA. As disclosed in Faini, the top cover is comprised of a frame 10 and a panel 11 secured in the frame 10. Further, the

frame 10 includes first and second edge members 12 and 13. More specifically, the first edge member 12 is an inner member of the frame 10, and accommodates the panel 11 therein with supporting the panel 11 by a surface 14. The second edge member 13 is an outer member of the frame 10, and is mounted on an outer surface of the first edge member 12 with surrounding the panel 11 and the first edge member 12. *See* page 3, ¶ 4-6 and Fig 3. An assembly of the first and second edge members 12 and 13 is achieved by coupling a tongue (i.e. hook) 20 and a projection 21 of the second edge member to a seat 17 and an undercut 18 of the first edge member. Further, projection 13b is provided at an upper end of the second edge member 13, and overlaps an upper edge of the panel 11. *See* page 4, ¶2 and Fig. 3.

The Office alleges that Faini discloses a top cover supporting mechanism and mentions a recessed hook 20 and projection 13b as such a supporting mechanism. *See Office Action* at page 6. However, as illustrated in Fig. 4, the hook 20 is simply used to couple the second edge member 13 to the first edge member 12, and even fails to be in direct contact with a bottom of the panel 11 to support the panel 11. In addition, the projection 13b is in contact with the upper edge of the panel 11 only. Therefore, Faini fails to teach or suggest the top cover supporting member for supporting the top cover by being in contact with the bottom of the top cover as recited in claim 7.

Moreover, the Office alleges that the hook 20 and projection 13b could be applied to the panel frame of the ASA, which is provided at the rear of the control panel. *See Office Action* at page 3. However, as discussed above, the hook 20 and the projection 13b are formed at the second edge member 13, and such a second edge member 13 establishes the frame 10 for the top cover, as shown in Figs. 1 and 4. In other words, the second edge member 13 and the hook 20 or the projection 13b provided thereto are merely a portion of the top cover, and do not teach any supporting mechanism provided separate from the top cover in order to support the top cover. Also, Faini requires the hook 20 and the projection 13b to be members for assembling elements of the top cover, and thus teaches away from the separate supporting mechanism for the completely assembled top cover, as recited in claim 7

For at least these reasons, claims 8-13, which depend from independent claim 7, are not *prima facie* obvious and are patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 8-13.

Claims 14-20

Similarly, independent claim 14, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, “a control panel for operating the washing machine and displaying a state of washing; a panel frame provided at a rear of the control panel and supporting the control panel; a backwardly recessed bead formed on an upper portion of the panel frame for supporting the top cover; and at least one top cover supporting member mounted on the panel frame for supporting the top cover together with the bead, wherein the bead and the top cover supporting member both support the top cover with being in contact with a bottom of the top.” As discussed above, the combination of the ASA and Faini fails to teach or suggest the top cover supporting member for supporting the top cover by being in contact with the bottom of the top cover as recited in claim 14. Moreover, the Office has acknowledged that “the ASA does not disclose a panel with a recessed portion thus forming a bead.” *Office Action* at page 3. In addition, Faini fails to disclose the features of the claimed bead and top cover supporting member. As noted above, Faini discloses that the hook 20 is simply used to couple the second edge member 13 to the first edge member 12, and even fails to be in direct contact with a bottom of the panel 11 to support the panel 11. In addition, the projection 13b is in contact with the upper edge of the panel 11 only. Therefore, Faini fails to teach or suggest the bead as claimed.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 14 and claims 15-20, which depend therefrom, are not *prima facie* obvious and are patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 15-20.

Other Matters

New claims 21 and 22 have been added herein. Claims 21 and 22 depend from and add further features to independent claim 7 and 14, respectively. For the same or similar reasons as independent claims 7 and 14, claims 21 and 22 are not *prima facie* obvious and are patentable over the ASA and Faini. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 21 and 22.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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